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12 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable David Packard  
The Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : Cambodian Scheduling

1. With regard to the timing of the Route 4 operation that we discussed on 11 January, during the night of 11/12 January I received the following cable from [REDACTED]

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"It is my understanding that the Route 4 operation will be launched on 13 January 1971 vice 20 or 21 January 1971. Originally scheduled for 11 January 1971, it was postponed. First (and possibly erroneous) indications were that Lon Nol had postponed because ARVN forces were planning to put on a show at Pochentong (Phnom Penh's airfield) in connection with the visit of Admiral Moorer. This story was given some credence because it was ARVN that set kickoff date. Lon Nol also decided to postpone operation slightly because he was not satisfied with FANK dispositions and wanted to make some changes. If operation commences tomorrow as scheduled it should provide some snow for the [REDACTED] Admiral Moorer has not yet arrived but we will remain alert for anything he may receive and/or anything further on Route 4 operation."

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2. The reference to "snow" is an allusion to the remark in my outgoing query (to which the above is a reply) that the relative timing of the Route 4 and [REDACTED] was important since if the Route 4 operation kicked off first, it would to some extent mask activity actually associated with the [REDACTED]

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*Mac Chono*

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3. Also during the night of 11/12 January, Mr. Shackley (our Station Chief in Saigon) cabled the following comment on the above quoted [ ] message:

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"Saigon info confirms that operation which originally scheduled for 11 January 1971 will now be launched 13 January 1971. Station received info on this from G-2 Delta Military Assistance Command who passed it to ROIC IV. General Abrams told me AM 12 January (Saigon time) that Route 4 op would be launched 13 January and would hopefully be over by Tet."

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver, Jr. /mee

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- 2 -

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